

**Amendments to Specification**

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 1, before the section entitled "BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION" as follows:

This application is a continuation of application Serial No. 08/757,958, filed November 25, 1996, now abandoned, which is a continuation application of application Serial No. 08/061,699, filed May 12, 1993, now abandoned, from which applications priority is claimed pursuant to 35 U.S.C. §120.

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 4, line 8 as follows:

--Figs. 2A and 2B (SEQ ID NOs: 9-98) show the E2HV sequences for 90 HCV isolates.--

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 4, line 9 as follows:

--Fig. 3 (SEQ ID NOs: 99-131) shows the HCV E2HV sequence data from patients followed sequentially after HCV infection.

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 30, line 20 as follows:

The sheep IgG preparations containing anti-HV E2 antibodies were prepared from sheep immunized with a peptide coupled to diphtheria toxoid. The peptide spanned the HCV1 E2HV region, and had the following sequence:

acetyl-C-B-E-T-H-V-T-G-G-S-A-G-H-T-V-S-G-F-V-S-L-L-A-P-G-A-K-Q-N-V-Q-L-acid (SEQ ID NO:1) (SEQ ID NO:2), wherein B is butyl alanine.